

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 21 (cancelled)

Claim 22. (currently amended) A seal for a gas supply system wherein the gas supply system ~~has~~ having an open, gas-conducting cross-section defined by a wall of metal, and a seal defined by a flattened portion of the gas supply system and a layer of a plastically deformable material between sides of the flattened portion sealed in a gas-tight manner, and wherein, in an area of the seal, the sides and the layer are mechanically interlaced one with the other.

Claim 23. (previously presented) The seal of claim 22, wherein said plastically deformable material is selected from the group consisting of metal, metal-organic compounds, metallic or metal-organic alloys, natural or synthetic polymers, adhesives, natural or synthetic fibre materials, and combinations thereof.

Claim 24. (cancelled)

Claim 25. (previously presented) The seal of claim 22, characterized in that said layer of plastically deformable material fills an entire cross-section enclosed by said wall of metal.

Claim 26. (previously presented) The seal of claim 22, characterized in that said layer of plastically deformable material is of a meltable alloy.

Claim 27. (previously presented) The seal of claim 22, characterized in that said layer of plastically deformable material becomes plastically deformable at a temperature not exceeding the melting-point of the metal of the gas supply system.

Claim 28. (previously presented) The seal of claim 23, characterized in that said layer of plastically deformable material is of metal.

Claim 29. (previously presented) The seal of claim 23, characterized in that said layer of plastically deformable material is of a natural or synthetic plastic which, after insertion and during or directly with gas-tight bonding of the plastically deformable material with the metal of the gas supply system, expands towards the wall of the gas supply system.

Claim 30. (previously presented) The seal of claim 23, characterized in that said layer of plastically deformable material is a natural or a synthetic adhesive forming an adhesive bond with the wall during or after the gas-tight bonding of the adhesive with the wall of the gas supply system.

Claim 31. (previously presented) The seal of claim 23, characterized in that said layer of plastically deformable material is shaped as a film.

Claim 32. (previously presented) The seal of claim 22, characterized in that said layer of plastically deformable material has a thickness of about 0.05 to 5 mm.

Claim 33. (previously presented) A method of manufacturing a seal for a gas supply system of metal, comprising the steps of:

inserting a layer of a plastically deformable material in an area to be sealed of the gas supply system of metal, mechanically deforming a wall of the gas supply system until the wall of the gas supply system and said layer lie flat against each other, and gas-tight sealing of said seal by a mechanical interlacing of said wall with said layer.

Claim 34. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, characterized in that said layer is heated until the material is plastically deformable and a gas-tight bond between the wall of the gas supply system and said layer has been formed.

Claim 35. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, characterized in that an area into which said layer is inserted is at least partially heated and a mechanical pressure is exerted in this area.

Claim 36. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, characterized in that said layer of metal is heated by induction or resistance techniques.

Claim 37. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, characterized in that said layer of metal is of a solder material.

Claim 38. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, characterized in that said solder material is copper-based.

Claim 39. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said plastically deformable material is selected from

the group consisting of natural or synthetic polymers, adhesive, natural or synthetic fibre materials, paper and combinations thereof.

Claim 40. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, characterized in that said layer of a plastically deformable material is a strip-shaped layer.

Claim 41. (previously presented) The seal of claim 22, wherein the plastically deformable material is a solder alloy.

Claim 42. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the plastically deformable material is a solder alloy.

Claim 43 (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the mechanical deforming step also deforms the layer.